

[11 August, 2000]

RAJYA SABHA

- (x) CNG is supplied for automobiles through a number of retail outlets in Delhi and Mumbai to cater to the CNG fitted vehicles.
- (xi) Public awareness campaign on the effects of pollution has been launched.

Depletion of Dense Forests in UP

2202. SHRI GANDHI AZAD: . Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that recent Forest Survey of India report reveals that dense forest cover of UP is being depleted by eight Sq.km. every day and the trend is continuing;
- (b) whether it is a fact that forests grow in Uttar Pradesh only on paper, as reported in Times of India dated 11th July, 2000; and
- (c) if so, what are the remedial measures adopted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) As per State of Forest Report, 1999, dense forest cover has declined from 22,958 Sq. Km. to 22,902 Sq. Km. and forest cover has increased from 33,994 Sq. Km. to 34,016 Sq. Km. in Uttar Pradesh during the period 1995 to 1998.

- (b) No Sir.
- (c) Does not arise.

Encroachment of Forest Land Area

2203. SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK: PROF.
RAM GOPAL YADAV:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) how many hectares of the total forest land of the country

† Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

were encroached from 1950 to 1980 and the various categories of the people who made such encroachments;

(b) whether Government propose to regularise the encroachments in violation of the Supreme Court decision;

(c) if so, the area of land encroachment upon which Government are impelled to regularise; and

(d) the likely impact of Government's action on the other such decisions given by the Supreme Court in this regard and on forests and environment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) The subject forest being in the concurrent list, the role of the Central Government is more related to the policy issues, whereas the responsibility of its actual management and protection vests with the State Governments. Encroachment on forest land is an issue being dealt by the State Forest Departments. As such the data on the extent of encroachments are not compiled and collated in the Ministry.

(b) to (d) The Central Government does not propose to regularise any encroachment in violation of the Hon'ble Supreme Court's decisions. However, where no specific decision/direction of the Hon'ble Supreme Court is there, the decision on the proposal submitted by the State/UT Government is taken as per the Rules and Guidelines framed under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, which provides for regularisation of pre-1980 encroachments provided the State Government had taken decision before enactment of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, to regularise such encroachments of eligible category as per the certain criteria evolved by the State Government in accordance with the local needs and conditions, but could not implement their decision before the commencement of the Act.